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WA-18

What a Great Place

As a recent Klickitat PUD board meeting was coming to an end, I was asked by the president of the board to write this back page.

I thought to myself, "What an opportunity to be able to reach out to the ratepayers of our utility services. Yes!"

So here I am trying to communicate what it is to be one of your Klickitat PUD commissioners.

I am nearly 10 months into this position, and so fortunate to be able to participate in how KPUD is moving forward. Within the next 10 months, Klickitat PUD is going to be able to sell the gas currently used in the HW Hill Landfill Gas project directly into the Williams pipeline as a renewable product. Klickitat PUD has a contract that provides better revenues than our project at the landfill currently does when we generate electricity using this same gas. The best part is that, in the future, we will have the ability to either provide renewable energy as a green gas or use that same gas to provide electricity for ourselves or in the marketplace.

Learning how these projects work and how they can benefit our ratepayers has been a fast immersion in the industry as a commissioner. It adds a different dimension to what I saw as an employee.

Late last spring, the board worked with the KPUD management team in affirming the direction the PUD was to take. Inclusive in this was how to meet the standards we believe are necessary to have a locally controlled and operated public utility. The board and management team determined three critical traits necessary to operate this utility successfully: honesty, accountability and customer focus. This was another immersion into Klickitat PUD that has been appreciated by this commissioner.

When I worked for Klickitat PUD as the water/wastewater systems supervisor, the best part of each day was to know I loved my job. Truly, it was the best job I have ever had. Now, as a commissioner, I get to continue to support this great organization. Oh, we have our moments, but it is an organization I am proud to have worked for as an employee and now to be working with as a commissioner. It is great to be here.

We have skilled employees in all areas of this utility. All are dedicated staff who work to resolve issues for our customers, the community and inside our organization. They track our costs and ensure we stay within budget. Throughout Klickitat PUD, our employees are environmentally conscious in providing safe, reliable service, be that water, transmission, generation, sewer or electric.

A big shout out to all the employees of Klickitat PUD. I love my job!

Doug Miller
PUD Commissioner